

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 30, H. Res. 942—Recognizing the significance of Black History Month, I was attending a funeral for a soldier killed in Iraq.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Congressman AL GREEN's resolution to honor Black History Month.

As the brainchild of Carter G. Woodson, the celebration of the many contributions of African Americans to this Nation has evolved from its 1926 inception as Negro History Week, to what we now know as Black History Month. As apparent by the change in titles, the mentality of our nation towards race and race relations has made significant improvements with each generation.

Although African Americans were an integral part of the founding of this nation dating back to at least to the colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books. Prior to Woodson's vehement efforts to write African Americans into the history of the Nation, books largely ignored the African American population except to mention them in the context of slavery. That is why it is so important that the full history of African Americans continue to be preserved and taught so that future generations of all Americans will know our abundant heritage.

An ancient proverb states, "Who has no past, has no future." African Americans have made significant contributions to this nation's history, and we continue to build that rich legacy today. Because of the continued efforts of those who educate our schoolchildren, future generations will know about how a race of oppressed people overcame the social and political obstacles of slavery and Jim Crow to become great innovators, scientists, novelists, musicians, philosophers, and political leaders.

The inclusion of African Americans in academic curriculums ensures that children can continue to be inspired by Thurgood Marshall, Malcolm X, Mac Jamison, Benjamin Carson, Richard Wright, and Shirley Chisholm.

Black History Month has not only set a precedent by honoring the achievements of African Americans, but it has paved the way for other nationwide celebrations of the contributions of other races and cultures. Therefore, by supporting Congressman AL GREEN's Resolution to honor Black History Month, I also support the American idea of diversity and multiculturalism.

I commend Congressman GREEN for bringing this important resolution to the floor, and I strongly urge my colleagues' support.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF INDIANA REPRESENTATIVE
RICHARD MANGUS OF
LAKEVILLE, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of distinguished former State Representative Richard Mangus. Mangus, age 77, suffered a heart attack Monday, February 4, 2008 and sadly passed away.

Mr. Mangus' career in public service began in 1972 upon his election to the Indiana General Assembly. After his initial term was complete, Mr. Mangus won 15 additional elections, serving a total of 32 years. A dairy farmer for 60 years, Mangus excelled in representing the agricultural community—he knew the farmers and the types of issues they faced, and he shared a great concern for the environment. During his time in office, Mangus served as Chairman of the House Election Committee, the House Environmental Committee, and the House Natural Resources Committee. Inside the Assembly, Mangus was known for his fiery spirit, his use of theatrics and drama to prove a point, and his no-nonsense wisdom. It has been said that Mangus did not speak often, but when he did, it deserved complete attention, for he was a true political genius.

Dick Mangus' illustrious career of service has been recognized by numerous honors and awards; in fact, he was a three-time winner of the Sagamore of the Wabash honor. He has been honored as both Police Legislator of the Year and Professional Firefighter Legislator of the Year; he received the District Soil and Water Conservation Special Recognition Award for Support of District Programming, as well as the 4-H Leadership 20 year Service Award, Izaak Walton League Environmental Achievement Award, and the award for the Junior Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Mangus was also appointed as a member of the Department of Natural Resources Commission.

Outside of his career in the state legislature, Dick Mangus served his country in the United States Army as well as owned and operated a successful family dairy farm. In 1951, he married his sweetheart, Mary, and they were together for 56 years. During this time, they raised five children: Marcia, Russell, Richard, Ronald, and Ryan. Mangus was a grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of ten.

Despite his claim to be "just a dairy farmer from Lakeville," Mangus will be remembered as much more. His legacy as a public servant will be defined by his passionate advocacy, creative methods, and humble approach. He will be dearly missed by his family, his constituents, and all Hoosiers. It is with great pride and honor that I enter former State Representative Richard Mangus' name into the United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING LESTER RAY
WISEGERBER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the fine work and outstanding public service of my friend, Lester Ray Wisegerber. In 2004, Lester Ray Wisegerber became president of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce. He drew upon his diverse background to lead and represent the city of Dayton. Being a true Texan and Dayton resident for 72 years, his happy spirit and love of the town made Lester Ray a natural promoter of the city.

Celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary last December, Lester Ray and his wife Betty Jo are the proud parents of four children, twelve grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. During his lifetime Lester Ray has worn many hats, working for instance as a rancher, and a rice farmer. He helped form the Seaberg Rice Company and is also an inventor. His inventions include the "Easy Start", Dr. Hennessey's Dental Flosser, and a fuel saving motor.

Lester Ray has a long career in public service. Throughout the years, he has assisted and been recognized by numerous boards and organizations. For two terms, he served on the Dayton City Council. He served on the board of the Liberty County Farm Bureau. He served on the Dayton ISD school board for fifteen years. His service to Dayton ISD has helped improve both the life and education for the children of our community. As a former bronco football player, Lester Ray's love for sports gave way to the organization of the Bronco Booster Club Oyster Supper. For twenty four years, Lester Ray served in the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department. The list of this model citizen's accomplishments will have lasting effects on our children and our community.

Actively involved in local politics, Lester Ray currently serves as the chairman of the Liberty County Republican Party. During this time, he has successfully promoted candidates for numerous elected positions. His hard work and love for Liberty County has earned him enduring respect throughout the community.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I commend this remarkable Texan for his exemplary service and dedication to the city of Dayton.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THOMAS O. MEFFERD

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Mefferd for his 22 years of dedication and service to DuPage County.

Tom began his career in emergency management in 1971 as the Civil Defense Director for the Village of Plainfield, IL, a position he held for 10 years.

In 1981, Tom left municipal government and became an instructor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. While

there, he was responsible for conducting training courses and disaster exercises in FEMA Region 5.

In 1988, Tom returned to local government service and became the Deputy Coordinator of the DuPage County Office of Emergency Management, where he oversaw disaster planning and training activities.

In recognition of his exemplary role as Deputy Coordinator, Tom was appointed Coordinator of the DuPage County Office of Emergency Management in 1995. While holding this position, he supervised the renovation of the county's Emergency Operations Center, designed the county's Mobile Operating Center and the installation of Illinois' first Emergency Alert System.

He also serves as a member on the Illinois Terrorism Task Force.

In 2003, Tom became the Director of the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as DuPage became the first county in Illinois to merge the roles of emergency management and homeland security.

Tom's steadfast dedication to protecting our communities has spanned more than two decades. On February 29, 2008 he will begin a well deserved respite. Thanks to Thomas Mefferd, DuPage County's emergency management system is clearly a cut above the rest.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring the distinguished career and service of Thomas Mefferd.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT HAL JACKSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Hal Jackson, a life-long North Texan who passed away at 87 years of age on Saturday, January 19, 2008.

Robert Hal Jackson devoted his life to helping and protecting others. Born on November 29, 1920, in Denton, Texas, he graduated from North Texas State Teacher's College, now known as the University of North Texas, in 1941. Mr. Jackson enrolled in law school at the University of Texas but left to join the Navy Air Corps on January 1, 1942. On November 14th of that year, he married his wife Barbara Hancock before serving three tours of duty in the South Pacific during World War II. He was a member of the VF-17 Skull & Crossbones Squadron and received a Silver Star for his part in the aerial attack that sunk the Yamato, Japan's largest battleship.

Upon returning from the war, Jackson finished his degree at Baylor University and Southern Methodist University. He served two terms in the Texas State Legislature representing Denton, and earned his law license in 1952. Continuing his commitment as a public servant, Mr. Jackson chose to be a defense attorney in the criminal courts, believing that the American justice system relied on strong, dedicated lawyers to compel the government to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. Mr. Jackson was most assuredly one of those lawyers, receiving respect from both sides of

the court room for his unwavering commitment to his work.

Mr. Jackson was a member of the Denton County Bar Association, the Denton County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and a founding member of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He served on the Denton Airport Board for two years, and was an avid supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Jackson was inducted into the Denton County Criminal Defense Attorneys Association's Hall of Fame in March 2006. He is survived by his wife Barbara, whom he was married to for 65 years, and several cousins.

Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize and celebrate the life of Mr. Hal Jackson, one he spent serving our country, both in the war and in the courtroom. His loyalty and allegiance to this nation will be sorely missed, but his memory will remain as an inspiration to those who were fortunate enough to have known him. I extend my sincerest sympathies to his family and friends; he will truly be missed by all.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Christian Community Action on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary for providing financial and spiritual needs for the underprivileged in southern Denton County.

Christian Community Action (CCA) was founded on February 22, 1973 by a small group of Christians whose resolve was to care for "the least of the brethren." Local mainstream Christian pastors and their congregations were asked to donate food, clothing, furniture, house wares and money. Tom Duffy, founder and the original President of CCA, started organizing their efforts from a residential garage but CCA soon outgrew that space and moved to their current headquarters in downtown Lewisville, Texas. Under Mr. Duffy's tenure, CCA went from a volunteer-run storefront to three full-scale Resale stores that earn approximately \$5 million each year to assist needy families. The number of those receiving help also saw an increase from a handful of families in 1973 to more than 15,000 individuals this past year.

Christian Community Action continues to expand its services to those who need it most in more than 46 communities. They compassionately assist families financially with their needs of today while helping them learn to one day live independently for a brighter tomorrow. In addition, CCA encourages spiritual growth providing religious opportunities to further their chances of success. CCA is committed to being responsible and faithful stewards of the donations they receive ensuring that their work directly benefits families in crisis situations.

I am honored to pay tribute to Christian Community Action and the valuable contributions they provide to those in need. I commend CCA for their dedication, commitment and service to disadvantaged families in Lewisville, Texas, and the surrounding communities, during the last 35 years.

CONGRATULATING NEW YORK: LAND OF GIANTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and allow two editorials, the Feb. 5 New York Post piece "They Shocked the World" and the Daily News' "Land of the Giants," to speak to the inarguable superiority of New York's football team, the Giants. In what has become one of the greatest upsets ever, the underdog Giants ended the New England Patriots' hopes for a perfect season and brought the title home to the Big Apple and New Jersey.

The tenacity of this championship team carried it over the finish line—from the steady leadership of its most valuable player, Eli Manning, and head coach, Tom Coughlin, to the late-breaking plays from wide receivers David Tyree and Plaxico Burress. The 17-14 nail biter was a match of wills and mettle, and the people of New York are proud that their team came out on top.

Congratulations are in order for the New York Giants, and its supporters, in its win of Super Bowl XLII.

THEY SHOCKED THE WORLD

Everyone knew that Super Bowl XLII was going to make history.

Either the world would witness the coronation of Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots as masters of a once-in-a-generation perfect season . . . or it would see one of the greatest football upsets ever.

But no one could possibly have foreseen that the Eli Manning-led New York Giants would pull off that upset with one of the most iconic performances in Super Bowl history: two fourth-quarter touchdown drives, including one to take a final lead with mere seconds remaining.

The team is being honored this morning with a much-deserved parade through New York's Canyon of Heroes, from Battery Park to City Hall.

Theirs was a performance, indeed, that could shape the game for years to come—if New York's already proud football history is any indication.

Take the 1958 NFL championship at Yankee Stadium—"the greatest game ever played"—where legendary quarterback Johnny Unitas' own late-game heroics led the Baltimore Colts to a thrilling overtime victory over the Giants.

It was a devastating loss for New Yorkers, but a huge blessing to the sport. Football caught the nation's imagination as never before, and the country soon discovered that its even pace, regular breaks and hard-hitting action made the game perfectly suited for the television era.

Within two years, the NFL boasted two new teams, and the newly formed American Football League (the leagues decided to merge in 1966) added eight more.

New York got its revenge in 1969, anyway, when "Broadway Joe" Namath famously guaranteed—and delivered—victory for his (AFL) Jets over the heavily favored Colts in Super Bowl III.

That victory was just as significant, shattering the image of AFL (now AFC) teams as talent-challenged upstarts and bringing an exciting and competitive parity to the sport that's propelled it toward unambiguous national-pastime status.